



A Message From The Secretary

Kansans have a lot to be proud of and KDHE has been tracking several of those issues in recent days. New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reinforces some of the positive things going on in our state. Our immunizations rates have improved to 78.1 percent from 74 percent last year, following several steps taken by KDHE to encourage childhood immunizations statewide. Many new initiatives are being developed as well. And on another very positive note for Kansas this week, newly released data show our state achieved *Healthy People 2010* objectives for breastfeeding for newborns and exceeded the national average of breastfeeding for six month olds. We still have work to do on our immunizations and on achieving additional objectives on breastfeeding rates, but we are making progress in these areas.

Another important area Kansans have to be proud of is the efforts of many Kansas businesses and municipalities working hard to make the state a better place. Recently KDHE announced numerous grants regarding recycling, composting and waste tire energy recovery programs in the state. KDHE is distributing grants to 28 cities, counties, businesses and regional programs, ranging from \$5,600 to \$250,000. They will fund valuable projects that will help to preserve our environment.

Kansas is also taking many positive strides to be more prepared for terrorism. A recent report from Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, conducted by the Kansas Health Institute, shows local health departments improved their overall preparedness level significantly in just 12 months after receiving additional federal funding for bioterrorism preparedness efforts. We know additional improvements have been made since the data in this report were collected in 2003. Kansans should be proud of the efforts local health departments have made to make them safer. Additional resources at the state and federal level have also improved and would be available to those counties.

As we track such changes as improvements in immunizations rates and progress in bioterrorism preparedness, KDHE is making every effort to provide the information immediately through our newly designed Web site. We hope you take an opportunity to look it over as we make valuable, timely information available to you and easier to find.

Be Well,